

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☒
no ☐

Property Name: Old State Highway Authority Garages Inventory Number: SM-883
 Address: 26045 Point Lookout Road (MD 5) Historic district: yes ☒ no
 City: Leonardtown Zip Code: 20650 County: Saint Mary's
 USGS Quadrangle(s): Leonardtown
 Property Owner: Mayor and Town Council of Leonardtown, Maryland Tax Account ID Number: 03-015041
 Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 173 Tax Map Number: 32
 Project: MD 5: MD 243 to MD 245 Agency: SHA
 Agency Prepared By: EHT Tracerics, Inc.
 Preparer's Name: Saleh Van Erem Date Prepared: 10/31/2007
 Documentation is presented in: _____
 Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☒ Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended
 Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
 Name of the District/Property: _____
 Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: ☐ yes ☐ no Listed: ☐ yes ☐ no
 Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

The Old State Highway Authority Garages, located at 26045 Point Lookout Road, are sited on the south side of Point Lookout Road (MD 5). The property consists of two buildings constructed in the second quarter of the twentieth century, which are bordered by mature trees and shrubs on the west. A paved parking lot is located to the east. Three buildings were photographed in 2000 as part of the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties form (SM-883), however Garage #3 is no longer extant (1).

Garage #1 is a one-and-a-half-story, four-bay building constructed in 1928 of rock-faced concrete blocks. Seven concrete-block engaged pilasters symmetrically mark the bays on the northwest and southeast (side) elevations. The building features an interior brick chimney. A front-gabled roof covered in corrugated metal caps the structure. The roof features overhanging eaves and cornice returns. The building is fenestrated by 6/6 windows with concrete lintels, roll-up paneled wood garage doors, and single-leaf vinyl replacement doors with plain vinyl-clad surrounds. Some window openings on the façade (northeast elevation) and southwest (rear) elevation have been boarded over with plywood.

Garage #2 is a one-and-a-half-story, seven-bay building constructed in 1938 of rock-faced concrete blocks. Eight concrete-block engaged pilasters symmetrically mark the bays on the façade (southeast elevation). The building features two interior brick

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended ☐
 Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

MHT Comments:

Jim Skuland ✓
 Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Elm
 Reviewer, National Register Program

3/25/08
 Date

3/25/08
 Date

200800704

chimneys. A side-gabled roof covered in corrugated metal caps the structure. The roof features overhanging eaves and cornice returns. The building is fenestrated by five roll-up paneled wood garage doors and two single-leaf metal doors on the façade. The secondary elevations feature three-light jalousie metal-sash windows and window openings filled with concrete blocks.

State Highway Administration (SHA) records also indicate the remaining two buildings on the site were once a part of a complex containing a total of nine buildings. These additional buildings included: a seed house constructed in 1978, a mower buildings constructed in 1988, a pump house of an unknown period, a generator house constructed in 1983, a tire room constructed in 1973, a locker building constructed in 1973, an office trailer constructed in 1980, and the Leonardtown SHA main office building built in 1938. All of these buildings are no longer extant (2).

Beginning in the nineteenth century, the St. Mary's County Commissioners maintained the roads through a road overseer or superintendent. Laws enacted in 1904 and 1908 established the Maryland State Roads Commission (SRC; later named SHA) and also provided for a state highway system that connected all of the county seats with Baltimore. By 1911, the SRC acquired and improved MD 5 from the Charles County line south to Leonardtown (3). Following World War I, Maryland launched a new plan in 1918 to reconstruct and improve damaged roadways and construct new roadways utilizing concrete shoulders and macadam roadway surfaces. By 1920, the construction of new roads, almost completely stopped by the war and post-war conditions, was resumed. During the period of 1920-1930, 1,721 miles of new state roads were built under the SRC in addition to post-war repairs made and building construction. New construction focused on better roadway alignment, easier grades and curves, better drainage structures, more durable surfaces, maintenance facilities and district and county offices. The roadway progress in St. Mary's County, managed primarily from this Leonardtown facility, is demonstrated in the statistics recorded in the Report of the State Roads Commission of Maryland, 1927-1930. By 1920, only 42% of St. Mary's County (composed of 370 square miles) contained areas located more than two miles from a state road. By 1930, this percentage dropped to 9% (3).

Functioning as the main SRC county facility, the Old State Highway Authority Garage complex was constructed beginning in 1928 at 26045 Point Lookout Road (MD 5) in Leonardtown to house various SRC vehicles and provide a SRC county office. During this time, St. Mary's County was part of the SRC's Upper Marlboro District, with the District headquarters located in Upper Marlboro (4). The Old State Highway Authority Garages, centrally located along a primary transportation route through St. Mary's County, provided a facility for the SRC to manage construction and road maintenance. MD 5 through Leonardtown operated as both a passenger and freight truck road serving as the main route to transport goods from area farms into the larger cities. As this truck traffic increased, so did the need to manage the roadways in the County. Train service bypassed Leonardtown, leaving MD 5 the primary transportation route through the area. By 1930, operations at the Leonardtown SRC complex were responsible for maintaining 145 miles of state roads in the county (4).

The location of the garages along MD 5 in the Leonardtown area also ensured construction and maintenance of much-needed roads in anticipation of the planned residential development to begin in the late 1930s. Leonardtown was growing rapidly as a government center and commerce hub with maritime industries focused on Breton Bay. The Leonardtown Old State Highway Authority Garage complex oversaw numerous fleet, road, bridge, and drainage maintenance, new construction projects, landscaping and project planning throughout the county. As more roadways were established, the garage complex grew in size, adding an office building in 1938 in addition to the construction of Garage #2 (2). The population of St. Mary's County doubled in the 1940s because of the establishment of the U.S. Naval Air Station, only twelve miles from Leonardtown, on the Patuxent River in 1943. World War II veterans returned from the war seeking employment at the air station and low-cost housing. Leonardtown and surrounding communities in the county saw a significant boost in residential development as a result of this increased demand for housing (5).

The majority of SHA buildings constructed in the early- to mid-twentieth century were treated as non-permanent, warehouse-like

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

SM-883

Old State Highway Authority Garages

Page 3

structures. They tended to be wood-frame structures clad in corrugated metal or vinyl siding, like the new SHA buildings along Point Lookout Road. However, the Old State Highway Authority Garages are permanent masonry structures built of rock-faced concrete blocks, a popular building material used throughout Maryland in the early twentieth century. Patented in 1900, rock-faced concrete block instantly became one of the leading building materials in the United States. The concrete blocks were a cheap, quick, and easy alternative to more traditional materials, with a block costing between thirteen and twenty cents to make in 1910. Advertisers pointed out that it was fireproof, required no paint, and needed little care.(6). The use of the rock-faced concrete blocks in the construction of the SHA garages has ensured their durability, despite no longer being used and maintained. The Leonardtown Old State Garages property was the only SHA District Office in St. Mary's County until 1980, when SHA sold the buildings and moved to a larger facility approximately two miles west on Maryland Route 5 (1). The property was ultimately sold by SHA in 1997.

The Old State Highway Authority Garages were constructed in the second quarter of the twentieth century to house road maintenance vehicles for St. Mary's County. The property is associated with the transportation history of St. Mary's County, documenting the development and maintenance of the roads from the 1920s to the 1980s by SHA. The Old State Highway Authority Garages are the oldest extant garages constructed by SHA in St. Mary's County. Consequently, the Old State Highway Authority Garages are locally significant in the site's contribution to the development of the area, thus qualifying it for eligibility under Criterion A. The property is not associated with any person or group of persons of outstanding importance to the community, state, or nation. Therefore, the Old State Highway Authority Garages are not eligible under Criterion B. These buildings embody distinctive characteristics of early- to mid-twentieth-century transportation-related architecture and are unique examples of Maryland SHA structures, which were typically temporary structures. Constructed of durable rock-faced concrete blocks that document the use of a fashionable early-twentieth-century building material, the garages retain their integrity of design and workmanship. Minor alterations have occurred, such as the replacement and loss of a few windows and doors, and no additions have been built. The replacement and boarding-up of some windows and doors has affected but not compromised the integrity of materials because the most character-defining features of the structures are the rock-faced concrete blocks and the fenestration. All of the roll-up garage doors are intact and operable. Though the garages were once part of a larger complex, they date to the earlier construction period of the complex. The buildings, sited on the south side of Point Lookout Road (MD 5), retain their integrity of location, feeling, and setting. The vacant structures have lost their integrity of association, because they are no longer owned or maintained by SHA. Therefore, the garages qualify for eligibility under Criterion C. The Old State Highway Authority Garages were not evaluated under Criterion D. Therefore, it has been recommended that the Old State Highway Authority Garages are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C.

The historic boundary of SM- 883 is considered the current tax-parcel boundary. This area includes the two garages, and the paved area connecting the garages. The location adjacent to MD 5 is also considered a significant feature of the historic boundary.

- 1) Kirk E. Ranzetta, "Old State Highway Authority Garage," (SM-883) Maryland Historical Trust, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form (2000), 8:1.
- 2) Fowler, John R., "Complete Summary Appraisal Report of: SHA Leonardtown Facility Routes 5 and 243 Leonardtown, MD 20650," June 4, 1997.
- 3) State Roads Commission, Seventeenth, Eighteenth and Nineteenth Annual Reports of the State Roads Commission for the Years 1924, 1925, and 1926 to the General Assembly of Maryland (Baltimore, MD January 1927).
- 4) State Roads Commission, Report of the State Roads Commission of Maryland, Operating Report for the Years 1937-1938 (Baltimore, MD, March 1939).
- 5) Aleck Loker, A Most Convenient Place: Leonardtown, Maryland, 1650-1950.
- 6) Pamela H. Simpson, Cheap, Quick, and Easy: Imitative Architectural Materials, 1870-1930. (Knoxville, TN: The University of Tennessee, 1999), 23.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____

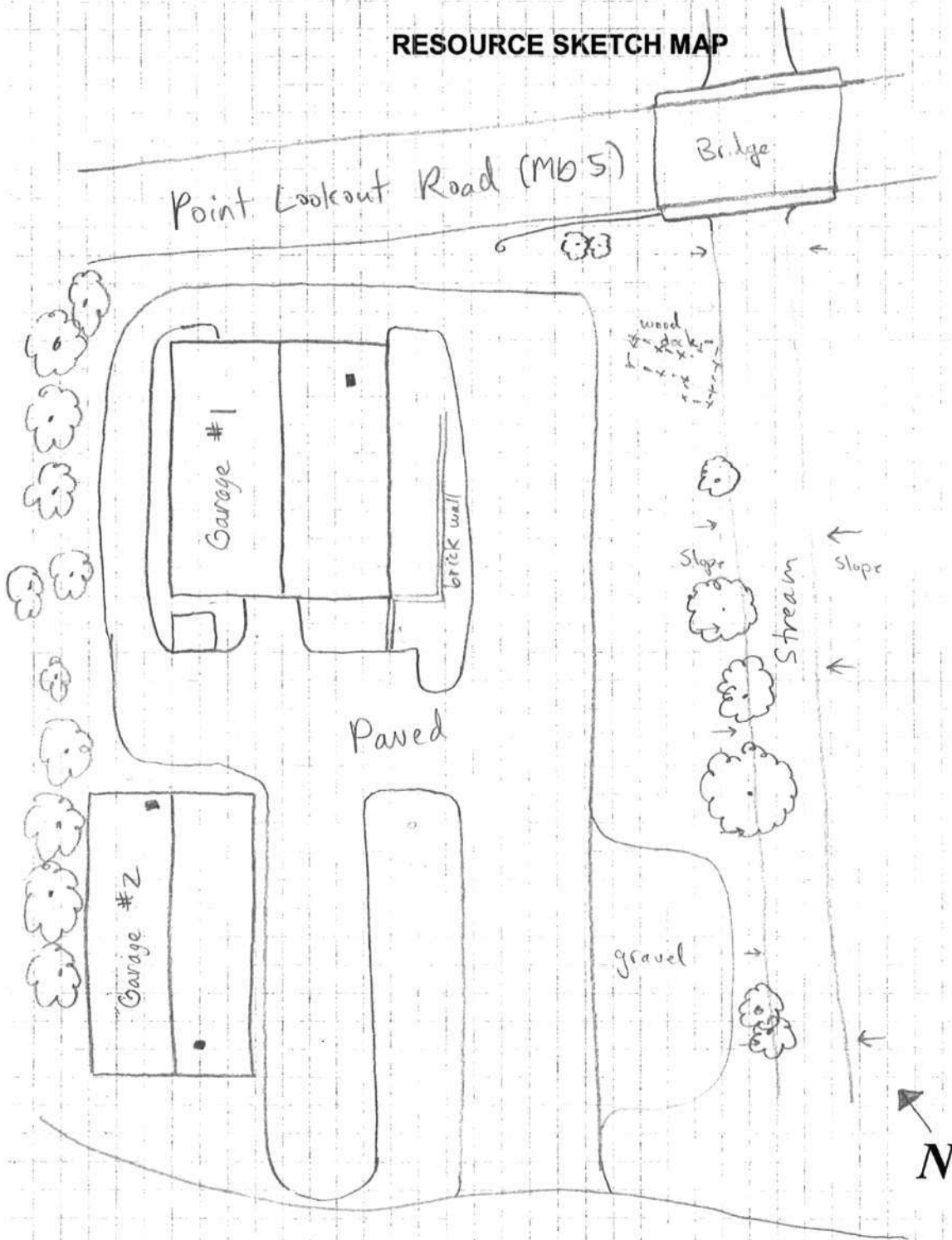
Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services_____
Date_____
Reviewer, National Register Program_____
Date

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP



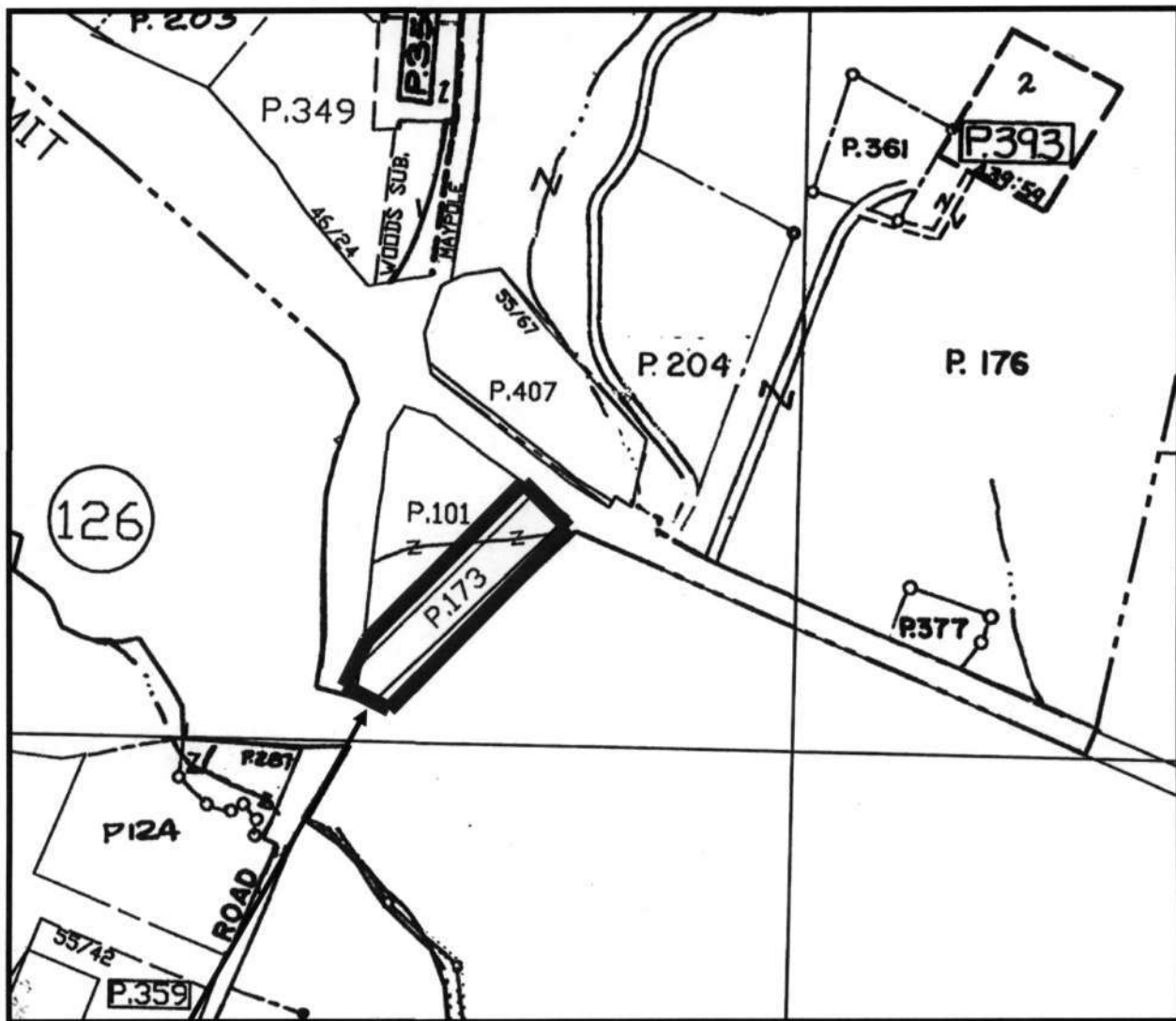
ID#: SM-883

Name: Old State Highway Authority Garages

Address: 26045 Point Lookout Road (MD 5)

Town/Town Vicinity: Leonardtown

County: St. Mary's



Old State Highway Authority Garages (SM-883), 26045 Point Lookout Road
 Leonardtown, St. Mary's County, MD
 Tax Parcel Map 32, Parcel 173
 Prepared by EHT Traceries, Inc., 2007





SM-883

Old State Highway Authority Garages

26045 Point Lookout Road (MD 5)

Saint Mary's County, Maryland

EHT Traceries, Inc.

October 2007

MD SHPO

Garage #1, looking north

1 of 4



SM-883

Old State Highway Authority Garages

26045 Point Lookout Road (MD 5)

Saint Mary's County, Maryland

EHT Traceries, Inc.

October 2007

MD SHPD

Garage #1, looking south

#2 of 4



SM-883

Old State Highway Authority Garages

26045 Point Lookout Road (MD 5)

Saint Mary's County, Maryland

EHT Traceries, Inc.

October 2007

MD SHPO

Garage #2, looking north

#3 of 4



SM-883

Old State Highway Authority Garages
26045 Point Lookout Road (MD 5)

Saint Mary's County, Maryland

EHT Traceries, Inc.

October 2007

MD SHPO

Garage #2, looking west

#4 of 4

Capsule Summary

SM-883

Old State Highway Authority Garage

Leonardtown

Public

circa 1940

The Old State Highway Authority Garage, erected circa 1940, is a rusticated concrete block, gable-front building lying on the south side of Point Lookout Road in the county seat of Leonardtown. Constructed to house the various vehicles of the Maryland State Highway Authority, the garage is a symbolic reminder of the progression of transportation improvements in St. Mary's County by the mid-twentieth century. In the 1980s the garage was abandoned by the SHA which moved to a much larger facility approximately two miles to the northwest near Loveville, Maryland. In 1999, the building was purchased by the Town of Leonardtown which plans to rehabilitate the building.

7. Description

Inventory No. SM-883

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The State Highway Authority Garage is located on the south side of Point Lookout Road near its intersection with Maypole and Newtowne Neck Roads. Oriented on a north/south axis, the garage is situated on a 25,264 square foot lot that straddles MacIntosh Run and a new gas station and fast food restaurant. The parcel is almost entirely paved and the garage stands right beside the road. Aside from the garage, there are two other contributing buildings on the lot. A circa 1960s cinder block equipment garage and an administrative office lie to the south of the garage. The property is bounded to the east by MacIntosh Run, to the north by Point Lookout Road, to the west by a new gas station and fast food restaurant, and to the south by Newtowne Neck Road.

The State Highway Authority Garage building is a one story, three bay, rusticated concrete block building probably erected circa 1940. The roof, covered with corrugated metal is pierced by an interior brick flue.

The primary or north elevation is pierced on the first floor by a centrally located garage door flanked on either side by a six-over-six, double-hung sash window. The east side of the elevation also features a door and the west side exhibits an exterior end chimney flue. The attic is illuminated by a pair of windows that are now covered over. Each of the openings feature concrete lintels. The west side of the building is pierced by four six-over-six windows. A series of vertical projections on this and the east side provide added structural stability to the curtain-wall constructed building. The east side of the building is pierced by a door and three six-over-six windows. The rear or south elevation of the building features a central garage door flanked to the east by a six-over-six window and to the west by a door. A pair of six-over-six windows illuminate the attic.

8. Significance

Inventory No. SM-883

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Old State Highway Authority building, erected circa 1940, is a rusticated concrete block, gable-front building lying on the south side of Point Lookout Road in the county seat of Leonardtown. Constructed to house the various vehicles of the Maryland State Highway Authority, the garage is a symbolic reminder of the progression of transportation improvements in St. Mary's County by the mid-twentieth century. In the 1980s the garage was abandoned by the SHA which moved to a much larger facility approximately two miles to the northwest near Loveville, Maryland. In 1999, the building was purchased by the Town of Leonardtown which plans to rehabilitate the building.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. SM-883

Hammett, Regina Combs. History of St. Mary's County, Maryland: 1634-1990. Ridge, Md: Self-published, 1994.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 25,264 sq. ft.

Acreage of historical setting same

Quadrangle name Leonardtown

Quadrangle scale: 1:24 000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is bounded to the east by MacIntosh Run, to the north by Point Lookout Road, to the west by a new gas station and fast food restaurant, and to the south by Newtowne Neck Road. A more specific description of the property's boundaries can be found in St. Mary's County Land Records Liber EWA 1386, Folio 367.

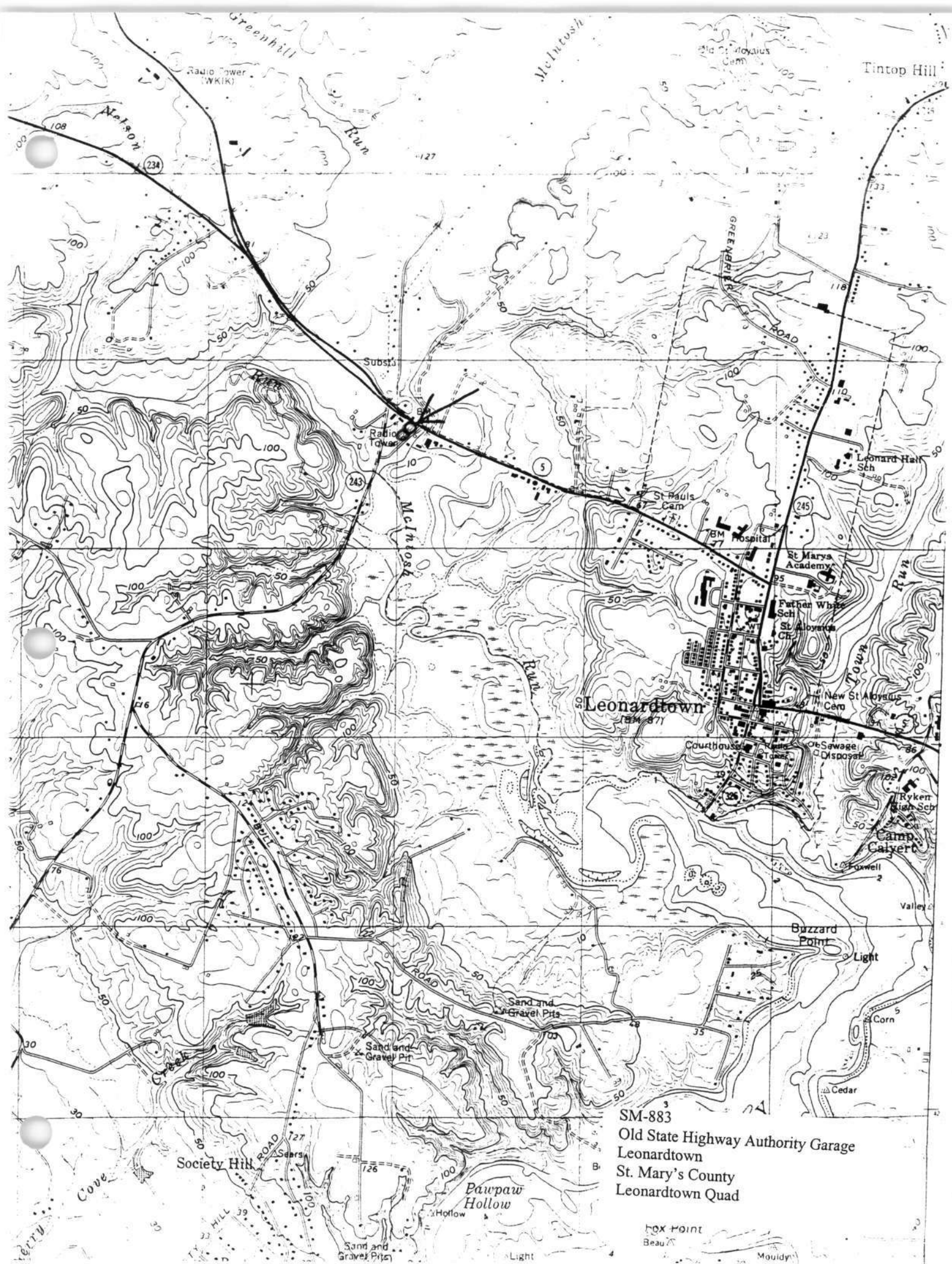
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	St. Mary's County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	August, 2000
street & number	22740 Washington Street	telephone	301-475-4662
city or town	Leonardtown	state	Maryland

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



SM-883
Old State Highway Authority Garage
Leonardtown
St. Mary's County
Leonardtown Quad

FOX POINT
Beau



SM-883

Old State Highway Authority Garage

St. Mary's County

Kirk Ranzetta

sept/00

Md SHPO

Looking N

1 of 1